

General Roberdeau House
418 S. Lee Street
Alexandria, Virginia

HABS No. VA-469

HABS
VA.
7- ALEX
86-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington 25, D.C.

General Roberdeau House
418 S. Lee Street
Alexandria, Virginia

HABS No. VA-469

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VA

Present Owner: Mrs. Virginia Parker

7- ALEX

Present Occupant and Use: Apartments

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Description

Brick, Flemish Bond-Moulded Watertable, Late Georgian style.

Number of stories: 3 ½

Historical Data

Year of erection: Unknown

Built for (first owner): Daniel Roberdeau

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Roberdeau

Notable events and occupants

The Roberdeau House is a 3-story town house of massive proportions, suggestive of Jonah Thompson's residence. The long rear may predate the front. The building has a gable roof pierced by twin dormers with arched sash. Flat arches of windows are Aquia stone with keys. Doorway is bracketed Victorian and vestibule also a later development. Inside woodwork includes unusual door pediments and a good stair, altered with Victorian newel.

The builder, General Daniel Roberdeau, was engaged in the mercantile business in Philadelphia before the Revolution. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly and became an early advocate for Independence. In 1776 he was Brigadier-General of the Pennsylvania Militia and about this time developed a lead mine at his own expense to supply lead for bullets. From 1777 to 1779 he was a member of Congress and signed the Articles of Confederation.

At the close of the war, like a good many Philadelphians, he moved to Alexandria. His handsome residence was the center of much social gaiety. Roberdeau's daughter eloped to marry the well known citizen and merchant, Jonathan Swift, who built beautiful "Colross", about 1800. Roberdeau is said to have been closely associated with L'Enfant and Andrew Elliott in the development of plans for the Federal City. He was consul for several foreign countries during the early 19th century.

References: Mary Lindsey, Historic Homes and Landmarks of Alexandria, Virginia, Alexandria, Va., 1949, pp. 35-6. HABI form, prepared by T. Russell Jones and Worth Bailey, HABS, National Park Service, Dec. 1958.

Approved

Dick Suttner
Chief Architect

Date

Feb. 16, 1959

The
Roberdeau
who was
L'Enfant's Assistant
was Issac

P. Scott
11-6-79

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